



RUMBLINGS

FOR SAFE ROADS, LOADS AND DRIVERS — ACROSS BRITISH COLUMBIA
FORESTRY TRUCKSAFE



BC Forest Safety Council

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December 2011 – ISSUE 134



Decision on BC Impaired Driving Laws



Justice Jon Sigurdson of the B.C. Supreme Court recently found that part of the province's drunk-driving law unconstitutional this month because there is no clear avenue to challenge the results of a roadside sobriety test when a driver is found to have a blood alcohol level over .08.

The B.C. government credited the legislation with leading to a 40% drop in the number of deaths from drunk driving over the past year. On average, 113 people died each year between 2005 and 2010 as a result of motorists driving impaired, but that number dropped to 45 after the law was introduced last October. Since then, police issued 23,366 suspensions. Of those, 15,401 were drivers who blew a "fail" or refused to provide a breath sample; and 7,965 blew a "warn." Police also impounded 20,020 cars — roughly 14,900 for 30 days. The rest were three-day impoundments.

Solicitor General Shirley Bond said only a "minor fix" is needed to bring the law into line with the Constitution. She noted that Sigurdson upheld most of the law, rejecting arguments that the province was infringing on federal turf by enacting it and by upholding the penalties for those who blow between .05 and .08. Bond said the government will make the fix. "(The ruling) does not mean that if you decide to drink and drive and blow .08 or above you will not face consequences. What it means is that in the interim, until I can make the legislative fix that's required, you face potentially criminal charges and it reverts to the regime that was in place previously: a criminal charge and a 90-day prohibition."



Closure of Rustad' and Takama – Compensation Announced



Canfor recently confirmed the permanent closure of its Rustad Mill in Prince George and its Takama Mill in Fort Nelson. About 350 Rustad and Takama employees will receive statutory payments and severance as negotiated with the United Steelworkers, receiving 2 payments in 2012 (January and December). Employees will receive 10 days pay for each year of service plus 12 weeks pay in lieu of notice.

Canfor communications director Christine Kennedy indicated "Rustad is an older and less efficient sawmill and it's got high operating costs and lumber demand and prices really need to be at a peak for that mill to be operated economically." "The capital investment that would have been needed to bring it up to a globally competitive standard was just more than was possible to invest in it." Canfor instead plans to focus on a \$300-million, three-year capital investment plan on other facilities. Kennedy said \$13.6 million of that is going into optimizing the planer and control systems at the P.G. sawmill. Onsite work began in October and the major installation is scheduled for December 16 to January 2.

Last week, Quebec forestry company Tembec signed a deal to sell its Elko and Canal Flats sawmills and the associated 1.1 million cubic metres of lumber and cutting rights from Crown and private land in the southern B.C. Interior to Canfor for \$60 million.



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Ledcor Resources Invests in Fibre Transportation



Ledcor Resources and Transportation has invested \$70 million to acquire Renew Resources (produces chips and hog fuel) and twelve new barges to service Howe Sound Pulp and Paper, making it the only company of its kind to provide all of the related supply chain services from fibre sourcing and harvesting to processing and delivery of fibre to end users.

Paul McElligott (formerly CEO with TimberWest) has recently joined Ledcor. He said, "This was a very deliberate, strategic decision that Ledcor made to further diversify into the resource and transportation sectors", and explains that Ledcor is creating opportunities to utilize and create value from marginal wood fibre that would have otherwise been slash burned or left on the forest floor. "Instead of doing nothing about a waste disposal problem that compromises our environment, we are producing woodchips and hog fuel for pulp and paper making and green energy production."

The Ledcor Group of Companies is a BC-based, employee-owned conglomerate operating across North America.



IEOA Light Parade in Victoria



If you were not able to make it down to Victoria for the 13th annual **Island Equipment Owners Association Light Parade and Food Drive**, you can check out the awesome display of bright lights and chrome at the YouTube sites below.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M2xzDkogyYs>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_FwusH2ocM&feature=related



Natural Resource Road Act Update



About 75 people representing a broad range of sectors – forestry (licensees, associations), mining, exploration, oil and gas, tourism, recreation, agriculture, several government ministries, trucking and safety – recently met for a 3-day workshop in Richmond to kick-off Phase 2 of the Natural Resource Road Act consultation process.

Phase 1 of the consultation process has been completed (the public was provided with the opportunity to submit comments to the NRRRA website up until December 15). Information provided at the Phase 1 website is being compiled for further consideration along with concerns and recommendations generated during the Phase 2 workshop.

During the session, participants discussed key topics, shared perspectives, and voiced concerns and support for the legislative initiative, and the consultation process. The group identified at least 14 issues (e.g. the safety framework, cost-sharing mechanisms, balancing rights and obligations, access management, standards, etc.) that deserve further work. Working groups have been created to think further about possible solutions, and positive and negative implications of those various solutions.



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Working groups will be developing feedback and recommendations for project leads to consider, and eventually present to politicians for their decisions prior to drafting legislation. Timelines are tight so volunteers will be working hard to consider and prepare information for delivery early in 2012 (some due by January 23).



CVSE and MoTI reps Meet with Cariboo Truckers



On **December 17th**, about 30 Williams Lake and Quesnel truckers - log haulers, chip haulers and lowbed operators – attended a meeting organized and hosted by the CILA. Guests included Brian Murray (Director, CVSE), Perry Dennis (Deputy Director, CVSE), Darhl Paley (CVSE, District Manager), Mike Lorimer (Northern Regional Director, MoTI) and Todd Hubner (Cariboo District Manager, MoTI). Truckers took the opportunity to ask Dennis and Murray some pointed questions about the CVSE, its mandate and its future direction, as well as respectfully relay their concerns about enforcement strategies and procedures (e.g. ticketing inconsistencies, lack of accessible dispute resolution process).

This meeting was a unique opportunity for CVSE and MoTI managers to engage directly in dialogue with local truckers, and is a good example of CVSE's willingness to listen to the trucking community, and work with them to address issues and build solutions. An example of their proactive direction was the well-received announcement that CVSE managers and operational staff are actively reviewing options for **changes to ABS and automatic slack adjuster requirements** for log hauling applications. A decision is expected to be delivered early in the New Year.



Pacific Trail Pipeline Wants to Meet with Road User Groups



On **December 8th**, the Prince George Forest Road Management Group met with Sandy Masterton and Brian Bondar to discuss the Pacific Trail Pipeline (PTP) project (Summit Lake to Endako to Kitimat). The group discussed the project plan and timing, focusing on the access requirements – cost-sharing existing access, building and deactivating new access routes, anticipated bridge and road improvements, scheduling, etc. PTP is hoping to start the first phase harvesting and clearing the 40 to 120-metre wide right of way – perhaps as soon as August 2012.

Communication and operational coordination will be key elements in the project success. Masterton expressed his appreciation to the PGFRMG for their willingness to discuss the project and share information. He also stated he is looking forward to arranging similar meetings with other road user groups along the PTP route, and to building productive relationships to ensure the safety of ALL workers during pipeline construction and maintenance phases.

Upcoming events

BC Natural Resource Forum	January 11 th & 12 th	Prince George
69 th Annual TLA Convention & Trade Show	January 18 - 20	Victoria
Oregon Logging Conference	February 23-25	Eugene, Oregon

RUMBLINGS is produced monthly to help keep you informed on what is happening in forest transportation safety in BC. If you have best practices you would like to share, concerns you would like to discuss, or topics you and others would like to learn more about, please give us a call at **250-562-3215**.